



Frankly Speaking...

The year's going too fast! March is here and that means our Hamfest is next month. Field day is just a few months out as well. We'll discuss these next week.

Unless I find the time, we'll probably have some sort of video for this month's meeting.

Until then, keep your amps tuned and aerials resonant.

—Submitted by Frank KG6N

NEXT MEETING

Wed, March 15, 2017, 7:30pm

City of Sonoma EOC,

Sonoma Police Department

Topic: Planning for Hamfest

VOMARC Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2017

Called to order at 19:30ish by our super-efficient Vice President KJ6QIQ!

KD6FIL (Dave), KJ6QIQ (Scott), KG6QNT (Eileen), NJ6E (Stan), WD6BOR (Darrel), KA2QQO (Declan), KA5WSS (Robert), N7PIB (San), K6KLL (Alan), KF6FZM (Dick), W1EJ (Ed), AK6RF (Matt),

K6UUW(Jim), N9ZZZ (Adam), N6KM (Ken), WB6TMH (Mike),

Introductions.

Minutes approved for January.

Treasures report: We have \$2173.01. We have received \$285 in dues for 2017. Thank you.

We made \$1044 from the hamfest last year.

Secretary: K6UUW, N6KM and I visited the Hornet Amateur Radio Club at their meeting on February 4. It was a fun trip and I recommend getting a tour of the Hornet and visiting the Hornet Amateur Radio Club.

Old Business:

Hamfest:

1. Insurance has been submitted
2. Job Sign Up sheet:
 - Breakfast/Kitchen – 2 shifts of 6
 - Swap Table
 - Swap Registration
 - Fox Hunt
3. Club Station
4. Advertising/ Need to distribute flyers
Invites for Public Service
 - Possibly Ed Richie from San Ramon
 - Sonoma County ACS
 - Free Breakfast for any Emergency Personnel

5. Suggestions to generate more interest for the hamfest:

- Hobby Faire
- RC Group
- Maker Faire
- AMSAT

6. Need to Reach out to generate more interest

- PG&E Safety Program
- Boy Scouts
- EMCOM Van
- ARRL Talk
- Possibly a bigger raffle prize
- Charge admission
- Suggestion Box

7. Hamfest started in 1979

- Need to Generate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual for the Hamfest
- Include job descriptions

New Business:

Oscilloscope giveaway: Keysight has an oscilloscope giveaway going on in the month of March. To sign up go to:

[March is Keysight Oscilloscope Month](#)

Posted: 13 Feb 2017 12:16 PM PST

Once again this year, Keysight, which used to be Agilent, which used to be Hewlett-Packard, is giving away oscilloscopes during the month of March. Normally, I don't plug manufacturers like this, but they say that they are going to be giving away scopes. The terms and conditions say that they will be giving away "115 of the newest InfiniiVision 100 MHz oscilloscopes. A minimum quantity of 5 winners will be chosen daily each work day (Monday – Friday) during March 2017." There's also some kind contest, and the winners will also get scopes.

For more information and to enter the contest, go to the Scope Month home page. To learn more about oscilloscopes, go to the Keysight Oscilloscope Learning Center.

There are small volt/amp readouts sold at Hobby King for around \$6 each. We could do a club order if people are interested.

DMR class in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 2035ish.

—submitted by Dave KD6FIL

Cape Cod National Seashore to Host W1MGY *Titanic* Memorial Special Event

Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts has invited organizers of an Amateur Radio special event in April marking the 105th anniversary of the RMS *Titanic* disaster to set up at its [Salt Pond Visitor Center](#).

The *Titanic*/Marconi Memorial Radio Association of Cape Cod -- [W1MGY](#) -- is sponsoring the worldwide commemoration to honor the approximately 1,500 passengers and crew who died when the *Titanic* -- thought to be unsinkable -- struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage from England to the US. W1MGY operators have permission to operate from the national park for 3 days and 2 nights.

Sponsors point out that the



740 *Titanic* survivors were rescued by the *Carpathia* as a result of wireless messages sent from Marconi's Wellfleet Station, today preserved within Cape Cod National Seashore as its "Marconi Beach" site. Between April 13 and April 22, the national park will host commemorative events, including the special event, centering on the *Titanic* disaster and the evolution of wireless communication,

culminating in the worldwide International Marconi Day. All *Titanic* events will be held at the Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham. Events are free and open to the public.

"We will operate from there on April 13, 14, and 15 until 0527 UTC, the time the *Titanic*'s last radio message was heard by the *Virginian*. The vessel foundered 20 minutes later," said Barry Hutchinson, KB1TLR -- the new trustee of W1MGY, which itself recalls the *Titanic*'s MGY call sign. W1MGY, which has been on the air for past *Titanic* on-the-air events, will transmit a message at the time the ship foundered.



Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore. [National Park Service photo]

For more than a decade, W1MGY special operations have

marked *Titanic* anniversaries. ARRL Lab staffer Mike Gruber, W1MG, became W1MGY's trustee in 2003, and he and others operated *Titanic* special events in April from the *Titanic* Museum in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts.

W1MGY will set up two stations staffed by about two dozen volunteers and operate on CW, SSB, and possibly PSK31. All operating will be done in the General class band segments. As starting points, Hutchinson suggested 3.950 MHz, 7.270 MHz, and 14.285 MHz, adding that band conditions would dictate whether they try 15 and 10 meters. W1MGY will be on the air for a public demonstration on April 15, from 9:30 AM until about 2 PM EDT, when the Cape Cod National Seashore will show the movie *Titanic* to close out the event.

Hutchinson said park visitor center staffers have been enthusiastic and very supportive of the event, and he hopes the park will be willing to host future *Titanic* events. Read [more](#).

(from Mar. 9 ARRL newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

WORD TO THE WISE

DMR: Digital Mobile Radio

A [set of standards for digital voice and data communication](#) via radio and published by ETSI for professional (commercial) mobile radio users. Following an age-old tradition, commercial UHF and VHF DMR gear has been and continues to be repurposed for the amateur bands. As interest has grown, amateur-specific gear has become available. DMR appears to be quickly growing, and is attracting the attention of many newer amateurs because of its novelty, rapid innovation in hardware and services, utility of various [networks](#) and system operators, and inexpensive entry level radios. For experimenters, DMR building blocks (e.g. encoder/decoder modules, software, [digital radios](#)) are [available](#) from a number of sources and are being combined with inexpensive computing hardware. There are even [DMR hotspots in a USB form factor](#).

(from the Feb. 22 ARRL Contest Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

When Microsoft Windows boots, it interrogates serial ports connected to your system to look for peripherals like mice. Unfortunately, this may have the side effect of switching some lines, such as DTR, that are connected to radios or other devices. There were various techniques in previous Windows versions to prevent this, but those techniques don't work with *Windows 10*.

However, if you're using FTDI-based USB to Serial port hardware, Tom, VA2FSQ, suggests: "If you open the device manager in Microsoft *Windows* and double-click on the serial port, you can select Port Settings, and then Advanced. In this page, there are two options. One is 'Serial Enumerator' which should **not** be checked, and the other is 'Disable modem ctrl at startup' which should be checked. This solves the issue at least for the FTDI chipset." (Tom, VA2FSQ, via Elecraft mailing list)

NXP Semiconductor has a new LDMOS transistor that should be appealing to solid-state amplifier builders -- the [MRF1K50](#). According to the NXP data sheet, the reference design is capable of 1500 Watts CW output power at 27 MHz, with a drain efficiency of 78%. To increase the potential for incorporation into long-lived equipment, NXP is promising to manufacture the device until at least 2031.

(from Feb. 22 ARRL contest newsletter.)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

FOR SALE

Yaesu FT 1000MKV transceiver fully loaded with filters. Asking \$1250.00

Call **Frank (225-1133)** or **Jim (935-7441)** for more details.

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 21 EDITION 3

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

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Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL — Secretary

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Jim Hill, K6UUW — Elmer Coordinator, Training Officer, President Emeritus

Ken McTaggart, N6KM — Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT — Webmeistress, Editor

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

**2017 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	KJ6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY	KEN	N6KN
AUGUST	GILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2017 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE MARCH 15, 2016, 7:30PM,
CITY OF SONOMA EOC, SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1ST ST W, SONOMA, 95476
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2017

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.